



Community Providers Association
Caring for Connecticut.

Human Services Committee Public Hearing
February 10, 2011

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Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA)

H.B. 6218 An Act Establishing a Task Force on Safety Net Services

I am pleased to provide testimony today in support of H.B. 6218 An Act Establishing a Task Force on Safety Net Services.

The Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA) represents organizations that provide services and supports for people with disabilities and significant challenges including children and adults with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental, and physical disabilities. Community providers deliver quality health and human services to 500,000 of Connecticut's residents each year. We consider ourselves to be the safety net.

Expanded definition of safety net

We understand that the focus of this proposed legislation is to ensure that the basic health care, child care and housing and employment and other social welfare needs of individuals served by TANF, Jobs First and other related programs are met. We support the direction of this legislation, but ask that you consider expanding the definition of the safety net to include the broader array of health and humans services.

The individuals who receive the services of TANF, Jobs First and similar programs are, in many cases, the same people who receive the community-based based mental health services, the residential treatment, the substance abuse counseling and other services provided by community providers. The safety net for individuals and families with disabilities and multiple challenges is large and interrelated.

Broader committee participation

We recommend that the participation on the task force be expanded to include safety net service providers and individuals receiving safety net services. While we understand that the proposed task force composition allows for designs that might include service providers and recipients of services, it is important that providers and primary consumers are identified as members of the task force. This will assure their direct input into the deliberation process.

We look forward to working with your Committee as this legislation moves forward.

CCPA

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